



## **Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of City Coordinator**

**Date:** June 17, 2013

**To:** Honorable Elizabeth Glidden, Chair, Regulatory, Energy & Environment Committee

**Subject:** Minneapolis Climate Action Plan

### **Recommendations:**

- Adopt the attached Minneapolis Climate Action Plan.
- Direct Sustainability staff to continue to track community greenhouse gas emissions on an annual basis and report through the Sustainability Indicators Report progress towards goals as well as the impact of activities that occurred in the previous year.
- Direct Sustainability staff to work across departments and with the Community Environmental Advisory Committee to identify climate action strategy priorities and bring to the Council policy and funding requests on an ongoing basis.
- Direct Sustainability staff to incorporate the goals and where appropriate specific strategies from the Climate Action Plan into the Energy Pathways Study and specifically the City Energy Vision which will be developed during that study.
- Thank the subcommittee/steering committee members and the community for their participation in the development of the Minneapolis Climate Action Plan.

### **Previous Directives:**

- In 1993, Minneapolis adopted the "Minneapolis – St. Paul CO2 Reduction Project", one of the first municipal climate action plans.
- In 2003, the City Council adopted the first greenhouse gas reduction target into the Sustainability Indicators.
- In 2005, Mayor Rybak signed the US Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement.
- In 2010, the City Council adopted the City Goals and Strategic Directions, including an Eco-focused city.
- On January 27, 2012, the City Council adopted updated greenhouse gas reduction goals – to reduce community-wide greenhouse gas emissions 15 percent by 2015 and 30 percent by 2025 both from 2006 levels.

### **Department Information**

Prepared by: Brendon Slotterback, Sustainability Program Coordinator
Approved by: Paul Aasen, City Coordinator
Presenters in Committee: Brendon Slotterback, Sarah Sponheim, Lauren Huynh, Ross Abbey, Cecilia Martinez

**Financial Impact:** None

## **Community Impact** None

### **Supporting Information:**

For more than 20 years, the City of Minneapolis has been striving to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, starting with the adoption of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Urban CO2 Project Plan in 1993. This plan established aggressive greenhouse gas reduction targets through cost-effective strategies. Since that time, Minneapolis has been working to improve the energy efficiency of homes and businesses in the city, improve access to public transit, and reduce waste and increase recycling. Most recently, the Minneapolis City Council revised its greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets in 2012 - to reduce community emissions 15 percent by 2015 and 30 percent by 2025, all from a 2006 baseline. These targets serve as the basis for the development of this plan.

Beginning in early 2012, Sustainability staff convened multiple stakeholder groups to develop goals and strategies that would provide a roadmap to our emissions reduction targets. The process also included an Environmental Justice Working Group, with an emphasis on building social and environmental equity, by examining how those who will be most impacted by climate change and the implementation of the plan strategies could shape the outcome.

Staff also solicited feedback during the planning process from the general public through multiple venues – three public open houses, two online surveys, and presentations to five of the City's advisory groups: the Community Environmental Advisory Commission, the Public Health Advisory Committee, the Bicycle Advisory Committee, the Pedestrian Advisory Committee, and the Planning Commission. There were also presentations to numerous other groups.

The outcome of this process is a plan that focuses on three key sectors: Buildings and Energy, Transportation and Land Use, and Waste and Recycling. The goals and strategies in this plan fall primarily into the following categories:

- **Significantly improving the energy efficiency of our commercial, residential and public buildings.** Strategies are identified to improve energy efficiency in commercial and residential buildings 20 and 15 percent respectively from a baseline of growth by 2025. City and other public buildings should continue to lead the way by aggressively pursuing cost-effective energy efficiency strategies.
- **Increasing our use of local, renewable energy.** The plan calls for increasing our use of local or directly purchased renewable energy to 10 percent of the total electricity consumed in the city by 2025. The purchase of green power, and new approaches that make renewables more accessible and widespread, like solar gardens, will be pursued. Regulatory changes will be pursued to appropriately value and incentivize renewable energy.
- **Reduce vehicle miles traveled in Minneapolis while improving accessibility and building walkable, safe, and growing neighborhoods that meet the needs of all residents.** Improving access to transit, making walking and biking inviting and safe, and building diverse neighborhoods are priorities. We will identify and promote cleaner fuels for our transportation system.
- **Reduce our waste stream by reducing waste, encouraging reuse, and increasing recycling of both organic and inorganic material.** Improving recycling performance in the city, and expanding composting and the collection of organic material are priorities, with the goal of increasing our recycling rate to 50 percent by 2025. Residents will also have more information about the lifecycle impacts of their purchasing decisions, and we will strive for more efficient processing of our wastewater.

The emissions reduction potential of the plan goals and strategies were estimated to determine the feasibility of meeting Minneapolis' greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets. Meeting

the goals set for each strategy area would bring Minneapolis' emissions 19 percent below 2006 levels by 2015, and 33 percent below 2006 levels by 2025.

## **Implementing the plan**

Strategies in this plan may be implemented through a variety of processes – community actions, ordinance changes, program development, partnership building, or advocating for changes to state and federal law. In many cases, additional research and community outreach will be needed before a strategy can be implemented. This will include additional review and approval by the appropriate City staff, stakeholders and elected officials. The passage of this plan does not mean these strategies will happen automatically.

Some strategies may require additional funding sources that have not yet been identified. A coordinated effort will be needed to identify appropriate funding sources whether they are internal or external to the City. As with any initiative, elected officials will need to weigh priorities in the case of limited funding.

For many strategies, it will be especially important to identify and support regional collaborations that can bring emissions reductions and other co-benefits. For example, transportation projects like transit are typically planned and constructed by Hennepin County and the Metropolitan Council with Minneapolis as a partner. Regional air quality initiatives, like the Clean Air Dialogue, also rely on cooperation of multiple government and private sector partners to achieve success.

Many strategies in the plan will require community outreach to engage organizations, businesses, and residents. Staff will seek to follow best practices for community engagement, including developing outreach plans which engage the community in multiple languages and utilize existing community organizations. The Minneapolis Climate Action Plan recommends reaching and engaging those communities that may be most impacted by a changing climate.

Sustainability staff will take the lead, working with other departments and the Community Environmental Advisory Committee, to bring forward future policy discussions, recommendations, and funding requests to implement strategies on an ongoing basis. Most immediately, staff will be working in the near future to incorporate the goals of the Climate Action Plan into the City Energy Vision, which will be developed as part of the Energy Pathways Study authorized by the City Council in April.

## **Tracking Progress**

Sustainability staff will report annually on community greenhouse gas emissions, as well as climate action strategies undertaken by the City or community partners. In addition, the City will measure how strategies are deployed across Minneapolis communities, identifying implementation based on geography, income, race, and ethnicity wherever possible. Staff will also strive to understand and measure how emissions reduction strategies can achieve multiple benefits like improving economic well-being and public health. Progress will be reported through the City's Community Environmental Advisory Committee, Results Minneapolis, and through appropriate updates to the City Council, such as the presentation of the annual Sustainability Indicators report.

As with any planning process, a number of assumptions were made in development of the emissions reduction strategies. Due to unforeseen barriers, policy changes at the state and federal level, or a changing marketplace, the implementation path of strategies in the plan may change, or strategies may be more or less successful in reducing emissions than expected. Minneapolis is committed to revisiting the goals and strategies of the plan as necessary to keep the city on a path to meeting the emissions reduction goals.